

CLAIMS

Claims 1-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently Amended) A method for routing network traffic, comprising:

- a. receiving the network traffic at a router;
- b. determining a geographic location of the router using an IP address of the router;
- c. determining a destination for the network traffic received at the router;
- d. determining a geographic location of the destination using an IP address of the destination;
- e. determining a first route to the destination, the first route comprising at least a first intermediate routing device;
- f. deriving a geographic location of the first intermediate routing device using an IP address of the first intermediate routing device, by performing the steps of:
  - extracting geographic naming information for the first intermediate routing device, from a first part of a host name associated with the first intermediate routing device;
  - comparing at least a part of the extracted geographic naming information for the first intermediate routing device to one or more of the plurality of variations of each of a plurality of geographic names stored in a database containing geographic naming information; and
  - determining a geographic location of the first intermediate routing device based at least in part on the comparison;
- g. analyzing a first interconnection between one or more routing devices in the first route by approximating the behavior at the one or more routing devices in the first route;
- h. determining a second route to the destination, the second route comprising at least a second intermediate routing device;
- i. deriving a geographic location of the second intermediate routing device using an IP address of the second intermediate routing device;

j. analyzing a second interconnection between one or more routing devices in the second route by approximating the behavior at the one or more routing devices in the second route;

k. selecting a route from one of the first route or the second route using the geographic location of the destination, the geographic location of the router, the geographic location of the first intermediate routing device, the geographic location of the second intermediate routing device, the approximated behavior at the one or more routing devices in the first route, and the approximated behavior at the one or more routing devices in the second route; and

l. directing the network traffic along the selected route to the destination.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the network traffic comprises a request and the destination comprises a server.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route with a shortest distance to the destination.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route having the shortest latency time.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route having the most available bandwidth.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on its load.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on a connection speed associated with a source of the network traffic.

- 64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on bandwidth available at the destination.
  
- 65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on a connection speed associated with a source of the network traffic and the bandwidth available at the destination.
  
- 66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the network comprises the Internet and the network traffic comprises packets.
  
- 67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising assigning a first confidence level to the determined geographic location of first intermediate routing device and assigning a second confidence level to the determined geographic location of the second intermediate routing device, and wherein selecting a route comprises selecting a route from one of the first route or the second route using the geographic location of the destination, the geographic location of the router, the geographic location of the first intermediate routing device, the geographic location of the second intermediate routing device, the approximated behavior at the one or more routing devices in the first route, the first confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the first intermediate routing device, the approximated behavior at the one or more routing devices in the second route, and the second confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the second intermediate routing device.
  
- 68. Claims 68-88 (Canceled).